

Humor Perception in Men and Women:  
Effect of Joke Type and Gender of Joke Target


Manisha Parekh

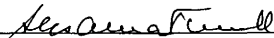
Submitted to the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships  
Texas A & M University

1998-1999 University Undergraduate Research Fellows Program

April 15, 1999

Approved as to style and content by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Jyotsna Vaid, Faculty Advisor  
Department of Psychology

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Susanna Finnell, Executive Director  
Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships

Fellows Group: Psychology

Our ability to be amused has been a topic that has interested psychologists dating to the time of Freud. Early psychoanalytic approaches to humor have highlighted its cathartic aspect, i.e., the tension release that accompanies laughter, noting that much humor involves a temporary suspension of normal inhibitions against expressing aggressive or sexual impulses. Later theories, including Gestalt and more recent cognitive approaches, have emphasized incongruity perception and its subsequent resolution as core aspects of humor processing. Still other approaches have identified social variables that influence the context in which humor occurs, arguing for the importance of studying who tends to produce humor and for whom, and who tends to be the butt of the humor. Some of the social variables believed to influence humor include ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender.

The present study focused on the variable of gender differences in humor perception. This variable has received considerable attention in the psychological literature (see Lempert & Ervin-Tripp, 1998, for a review). Findings from this literature are somewhat mixed, reflecting the often haphazard consideration of gender effects in the selection and screening of subjects and stimuli in many of the laboratory studies (Wilson & Molleston,

1981). Nevertheless, some generalizations can be made: there appear to be characteristic sex differences in humor appreciation, with men showing a greater liking for hostile or sexual [humor that is often quite sexist] (Brodzinsky et al, 1981.; Cantor, 1976; Chapman & Gadfield, 1976; Hassett & Houlihan, 1979; Epstein, 1975; Terry & Ertel, 1974; O'Connell, 1966) and women preferring absurd or nonsense humor instead] (Groch, 1974; Hassett & Houlihan, 1979; Terry & Ertel, 1974). Where specifically nonsexist material has been included, no sex differences are noted. Moreover, enjoyment of sexist ('put-down') humor is less characteristic of women or men who identify themselves as liberal or pro-feminist in their gender ideology. There is, nonetheless, an interesting wrinkle in this pattern, with some studies claiming to find that humor that disparages women is perceived as funnier by women and men than humor that disparages men (Losco & Epstein, 1975).

For various reasons, many of these claims may not turn out to be replicable. For one thing, most laboratory-based studies of humor preferences in men and women were conducted in the 1970s, a period when sex roles were perhaps more rigid than they might be now, and when there were fewer instances of women producing humor. Given that there now exist many more public role models of funny women (in television shows and stand-up

comedy), it is possible that the scope of the “laughable” has broadened as a result and that men and women may be more aligned in their humor judgments than they were before. Secondly, early studies of sex differences in humor perception did not typically explore the full gamut of types of humor; individual studies focused on one or two types at most, e.g., hostile or sexual. There was little attempt to gauge sex differences (or similarities) for a broader range of humor types. Thirdly, where different joke types were examined, the classification of the jokes as being of one or another type was generally made by the experimenter or a panel of two or three judges at the outset. One wonders if, given the opportunity to classify the jokes as well, participants would have come up with similar classifications as those of the experimenters and if not whether the degree of consensus in joke classification would vary as a function of participant gender and the nature of the joke itself. Yet another problem in evaluating the experimental literature on humor perception (and this is an issue regardless of whether the studies were actually looking for sex differences) pertains to the control of the stimuli: with few the gender composition of the jokes was rarely controlled; that is, there was no attempt to ensure that the gender of the target or agent of the joke was kept constant across joke types. As a result, it is unclear to what extent humor ratings reflect the particular gendered rendition of a joke versus

its content or form. A few studies (e.g. Losco & Epstein, 1976; Henkin & Fish, 1986) have sought to manipulate the gender of the joke characters by comparing humor ratings for the same joke presented in different gender forms. Two of these studies (Cantor, 1976; Losco & Epstein, 1976) examined aggressive verbal humor and the third (Henkin & Fish, 1986) examined aggressive and sexual sexist humor in cartoon form. Their findings suggest that changing the gender of the target does affect the perceived humor. One goal of the present research was to examine humor preferences for the same jokes differing in the gender of the target and/or agent. Another was to assess subjects' beliefs about how the humor of a given joke might or might not change if the gender of the characters were changed and to compare these projected ratings to actual humor ratings once the gender was changed. No previous studies have sought to compare projected and actual ratings. Finally, the present research examined how participants themselves rate humor that the experimenter has classified as being of a certain type

### *Present Research*

In the present research, humor perception was examined in relation to gender in a large sample of male and female college students in three studies.

The first study involved comparisons between men and women's relative degree of agreement with items on a 24-item survey of humor

preferences and practices. The survey instrument was prepared specifically for this study and included such items as “I enjoy telling/hearing absurd jokes,” “I enjoy telling/hearing sexual jokes,” “I enjoy telling/hearing jokes that make fun of stereotypical male/female behavior,” etc ... (See Table 1 for a complete list of the items).

The second study examined male and female college students' humor judgments for a set of 16 jokes selected to represent four different types (sexual, sexist, absurd or hostile) and varying in the gender of the butt or target of the joke. As in previous such studies, participants were to rate how funny they perceived the jokes to be using a rating scale. Unlike previous studies, they were also asked to judge how humorous the joke would be if the gender of the characters in the joke were changed. In addition, they were to classify each joke into one of the four types.

In the third study, a new set of male and female participants selected from the subject pool were presented with a subset of the jokes used in the previous study. These jokes were presented in different forms, i.e., with the butt of the joke changed (from male to female, or from female to male). Each participant in this third study only saw one version of each joke. As in the previous study, they were to judge each joke for its humorousness and to classify it into one of the four types (hostile, sexist, absurd or sexual).

*Research Questions*

Taken together, the studies in this research allow an examination of five questions:

**1) Will men and women differ in their stated preferences and us of humor for different purposes (e.g.; sexist, sexual, hostile, absurd)?**

Based on previous studies, one would expect males to express greater appreciation for hostile, sexual or sexist humor than would females, who were expected to state a greater preference for absurd humor. Alternatively, one may expect greater gender differences to emerge in the telling (but not hearing) of certain kinds of humor

**2 Will men and women differ in how much they like a joke of a given type?**

Previous research has claimed that males enjoy sexual and hostile humor more than females do and females enjoy absurd humor more; gender differences were expected in the present study in response to these types of jokes. Furthermore, each sex would not be expected to enjoy jokes that disparage their own sex.

**3) To what extent will individuals agree on how to classify a joke as hostile, sexual, sexist or absurd?**

Of the 16 jokes, four were pre-selected to be hostile, four sexist, four sexual and four absurd, based on the experimenter's judgment. The extent to which subjects agreed with that classification was empirically examined. It was expected that consensus should be greater for absurd humor, but that categorization of humor as hostile or sexist or sexual should be more susceptible to individual variation. In light of previous work by Quiros and Vaid (1998), in which women were found to be more sensitive than men to social aspects influencing joke success (i.e., joke teller and audience characteristics), it was further anticipated that women in the present study would be more likely to label a given joke as "sexist" or "hostile" than would men.

**4) Will men and women differ in their judgments of how changing the gender of the target of the joke will affect its humorousness?**

To the extent that previous studies suggest that women are more sensitive to social, contextual aspects of communication (including humorous communication), it was expected that women would be less likely than men to find jokes as funny if reversed in gender unless of course, the change is from a female target to a male target. Moreover, the "reversibility" of a joke was further thought to vary as a function of the type of joke - with absurd and sexual jokes perhaps being regarded as funny in either form while hostile



and sexist jokes would be regarded as differing in their humor value with a gender change. The latter trend may in turn characterize women more so than men.

**5) Finally, when one compares across jokes that are identical except in the gender of the butt, will men and women prefer the version of the joke in which the gender of the butt is opposite to their own gender?**

Vaid and Hull (1998) had found that women prefer humor that is gender-role atypical whereas men prefer humor that is consistent with sex role stereotypes. To that extent, we would expect that women (but not men) would enjoy humor in which the original butt may have been female but now the butt is male. Men, in turn, would prefer humor that does not subvert gender role stereotypes.

Thus, our study permitted an empirical examination of five questions pertaining to the impact of joke type and gender (of participants and of the gender composition of the joke itself) on humor appreciation and on judgments of humorosity.

## STUDY 1

The first study aimed at determining males' and females' self-reports on various measures of humor preferences and practices, with specific attention to their appreciation of absurd, sexual, sexist, and hostile humor. The survey included items that examined the telling and hearing of the different types of jokes

### Method

Subjects. A total of 49 females and 23 males, recruited from the Introductory Psychology subject pool at Texas A & M University, participated in this study in a large group testing session. Participants ranged in age from 18 to 22 years.

Stimuli and Procedure. Participants were administered a humor preference survey (see Appendix A) consisting of 24 statements with which they were asked to agree or disagree, using a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree). They were also to indicate their gender and ethnicity. The 24 statements were generated from twelve pairs of statements (e.g., "I like self-deprecating humor by men/I like self-deprecating humor by women,") that were randomly intermixed and presented in a fixed order to all participants.

### Results and Discussion

Survey responses were coded by participant gender per item. Table 1 provides a summary of responses per gender and item.

With respect to Question 1 stated at the outset, our findings indicate that there are indeed differences between the genders in use and appreciation of humor. Males reported enjoying the telling of jokes that make fun of stereotypical female behavior more than females. In the same vein, males reported agreeing with the statement “jokes made by men at the expense of women are often quite funny” more than females did. Males also reported jokes made at the expense of a superior as funnier than females reported them to be. Males reported that they enjoyed telling jokes about sex more than the females reported they did. Furthermore, males agreed with the statement “most people regard me as somewhat of a comic” more than females did.

Females reported enjoying jokes that makes fun of stereotypical male behavior more than the males. Female also reported enjoying jokes made by women at the expense of men more than the males did. Females reported that they did not appreciate jokes that put anyone down more than the males reported that.

Both genders reported that they considered themselves to have good senses of humor and that they like absurd humor equally. Both genders also reported that they enjoyed hearing jokes about sex equally.

Based on the survey findings, it would appear that males and females will rate the jokes in which the agent is of their own gender and the target is of the opposite gender higher in humor content than jokes in which the agent is of the opposite gender. Males are also expected to enjoy female-targeted sexist jokes more than female subjects; females are also expected to enjoy male-targeted sexist jokes more than male subjects.

However, the findings of the survey might be questionable because they are based on self-reported ratings. The subjects may have answered survey questions in ways that they felt would reflect on their gender of themselves favorably, rather than answering truthfully. Also, the findings might have differed if the sample size had been larger.

## STUDY 2

This study examined humor ratings by male and female college students for a set of 16 jokes culled from popular media. The jokes were subdivided into four types: there were four hostile jokes, four sexist jokes, four sexual jokes and four absurd jokes. Jokes were classified into these four categories by the experimenter based on the apparent basis of the humor for each joke (whether the humor came from a personal attack – hostile, etc...). In addition, 10 of the jokes had a male as the target while 6 had a female as the butt. In addition to rating each of the 16 jokes for its humorousness, subjects were to indicate whether changing the gender of the joke would affect its humor value, and finally, they had to classify the joke into one of four categories.

### Method

Subjects. There were a total of 126 males and 160 females, recruited from a Psychology subject pool. Subjects ranged in age from 18 to 22 years, were predominantly Anglo in ethnicity, and were tested in a single, mixed sex group session.

Stimuli and Procedure. Subjects were given a booklet containing 16 jokes (see Appendix B). The jokes were selected from popular media and varied in their gender composition (with 10 having a male target or “butt”

and 6 having female target). Moreover, 10 had a male agent and 3 a female agent. Finally, there were an equal number of jokes in each of four designations: hostile (defined as a joke in which the humor was based on insulting person, not a gender characteristic), sexist (defined as joke in which the humor was based on insulting a general characteristic of a certain gender or gender role), sexual (defined as a joke in which the humor was based on sex or sexual activities) and absurd (defined as a joke in which the humor was based on the situation or wordplay).

Subjects were instructed to rate each joke on three dimensions. First they had to judge how funny they found the joke, using a scale of 1 to 4, where 1= “very humorous,” 2= “humorous,” 3= “fairly humorous,” and 4= “not humorous at all.” Next, they were asked to decide if the joke would be affected by changing the gender of the characters. Here again they had to use a four point rating scale, with 1= “just as humorous” 2= “almost as humorous,” 3= “not as humorous,” and 4= “not humorous at all” if the genders were changed. Finally, they were to indicate the degree to which the joke could be classified best as hostile, sexist, sexual or absurd.

### Results

Four different analyses were done. One concerned humor ratings per gender per joke type. The second analysis examined humor ratings per gender

by gender of the target. The third analysis examined joke classification per gender and joke type. The fourth analysis examined joke reversibility per gender and per target gender.

#### I. Joke Type Effects: Humor Ratings Per Sex

The mean humor ratings per joke type were analyzed for sex differences. The anova indicated sex differences for two types of jokes: hostile and sexist. For both types, females rated the jokes as less funny than males. See Table 2. There were no sex differences in ratings of absurd or sexual jokes.

#### II. Target Effects: Humor Ratings Per Sex

Table 3

	<b>df</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Male Targets	1,126	0.60	0.43	0.27	0.29
Female Targets	1,160	26.08	< .001	2.50	2.85
	<b>df</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Male Targets</b>	<b>Female Targets</b>
Male Subjects	1,126	0.05	0.81	2.52	2.50
Female Subjects	1,160	21.72	< .001	2.57	2.86

Male subjects (2.50 vs. 2.85) rated female-targeted jokes higher than females subjects did. There were no gender differences in the ratings of male-targeted jokes (2.52 vs. 2.57) for males and females.

Males subjects rated male-targeted jokes as highly as female-targeted jokes. Female subjects, however, rated male-targeted jokes as funnier than female-targeted jokes (2.57 vs. 2.86).

In summary, each sex enjoyed jokes more when the opposite sex was the target.

### III. Joke Classification Effects Per Sex and/or Joke Type

There appeared to be no gender differences in the classification of joke type. However, there were differences in how jokes from different categories were classified.

Jokes that were classified as nonsense/absurd by the experimenters were overwhelmingly classified as that by males (81%) and by females (82%). Sexist jokes were also classified by a majority as sexist (males: 62%, females: 69%). When it came to classifying hostile and sexual jokes, however, judgments varied. Of the jokes deemed hostile by the experimenter, 37% were classified as sexual by female subjects, and 34% were classified as sexual by male subjects. 35% of the hostile jokes were categorized as hostile by the females, while the males categorized 27% as hostile.

Males classified 51% of the “sexual” jokes as sexual and 47% of the females classified the sexual jokes as sexual.

### II. Reversibility Judgments



44 percent of the jokes were judged to be reversible by more than 50% of both sexes, 0 percent by males only, and 13 percent by females only.

#### B. Reversibility Ratings by target Gender:

Did over 50% of subjects consider the joke to be as funny if genders were reversed (no indicates that a majority did not believe the joke would be as funny if reversed, yes indicates that a majority did believe the joke would be as funny if reversed, split indicates that an equal number of subjects felt the joke would be as funny compared to those who believed it would not be as funny)?

Table 4

Reversibility Ratings by Gender and Target/Butt

Male Target/Male Agent	Males	Females
Joke 1	No	No
Joke 3	No	No
Joke 4	No	No
Joke 6	No	No
Joke 7	No	No
Joke 11	Yes	(Yes, split)

Male Target/Female Agent	Males	Females
Joke 2	Yes	(yes, split)
Joke 12	No	No
Joke 15	No	No
Joke 16	Yes	Yes

Female Target/Male Agent	Males	Females
Joke 5	(yes, split)	Yes
Joke 8	Yes	Yes
Joke 9	No	Yes
Joke 10	Yes	Yes
Joke 13	No	Yes
Joke 14	Yes	Yes

*Note - for Study 3 only those jokes considered reversible by majority of both sexes were used. Prediction is that these would be considered as funny in either version.*

### Discussion

In regards to question two, males and females do appear to differ in their appreciation of *different joke types*. While there was no difference in their judgement of nonsense and sexual jokes, males considered sexist and hostile jokes to be more humorous than the females did, consistent with prediction. The prediction that females would rate absurd humor higher than males was not supported nor was the prediction that males would rate sexual humor higher than females.

As is apparent from the breakdown of categories, it would appear that in regards to question three, there is a great amount of variation in the classification of sexual and hostile jokes than that characterizing nonsense and sexist jokes. Perhaps this is because in sexist and nonsense jokes, it is easier to identify the type of humor being used. With sexual and hostile jokes, it may be harder to separate the situation and/or activities from the actual basis of the humor (i.e. the targeting of someone aggressively or the use of sex or sex activities as the primary basis for the joke humor). While this finding does support the prediction that the categorization of hostile jokes would be more susceptible to individual variation, it does not support our prediction that there would be little variation as to categorizing of sexual jokes. Further, the prediction that sexist jokes would be more susceptible to

judgment variations was not supported either. This finding may have some effect on future studies that look at humor perception as a function of joke type since joke type perception clearly appears to vary across individuals.

In regards to question four, it appears that males and females generally agree on judging whether humor will change if the gender of the joke's target changes. However, there were two cases in which females felt a joke would be just as humorous if reversed while the males did not agree. These two jokes were both sexist jokes targeted towards females. Therefore, it would appear that males felt the male-targeted sexist joke would not be as funny as the female-targeted sexist joke.

### STUDY 3

In this study, male and female college students were presented with a set of seven identical jokes differing only in whether the male or the female was the butt of the joke. Each participant received only one version of each joke. He/she was to rate the joke for its humorousness, indicate why they found it amusing (if they did) and classify the joke into one of the four designated types. The jokes used in this study were those chosen from subjects' ratings in Study 2. Only those jokes were selected which subjects judged would be as funny if the genders were reversed. If subjects' projected humor rating is to be taken at face value, we would not expect any differences in humor ratings across the different versions of the jokes.

On the other hand, if subjects are more favorably disposed to members of their own group, they should find jokes that disparage members of the other group to be more funny than jokes that disparage members of their own group. This prediction is based upon the dispositional theory (Lafave, 1972)), but in a previous test of the theory, Cantor (1976) found support only for men.

#### Method

**Subjects.** There were a total of 64 males and 77 females tested in this study. All subjects were again recruited from the Psychology subject pool.

None of these subjects had participated in the previous studies. Subjects were subdivided randomly into four groups. In Group 1 and Group 2, subjects were given jokes that were a mixture of the original jokes and jokes that were reversed for both target and gender (the agent was of the opposite sex from the target in each joke). In Group 3 and Group 4, subjects were given jokes in which for four jokes the target character's gender was the same as the agent character's gender (If the given joke had two women in it for Group 3, the genders changed to two men for Group 4).

#### Stimuli and Procedure.

Subjects were divided into four groups and received a booklet of manipulated and/or unmanipulated jokes according to which group they were in. (see Table 5)

#### Results

##### A. Original Version (Study 2 joke): Male Target/Female Agent

There were two jokes of this type, Jokes 1 and 7 (see Table 5, group 1). For one of them (a nonsense joke) female subjects found the male butt version funnier than the female butt version. For the others, neither sex showed a preference for a particular version.

##### B. Original Version: Female Target/Male Agent

There were four jokes of this type, Jokes 2, 3, 4, and 6 (See Table 5, group 2). For one of them (Joke 2), male subjects preferred the female butt version. For another one (Joke 4), female subjects preferred the male butt version.

#### C. Original Version: Male Target/Male Agent

There was one joke of this type, Joke 5 (See Table 5, group 1). For this joke, female subjects preferred the version in which both target and agent were males as opposed to females.

In summary, of the seven jokes rated by the subjects in Study 2 to be equally humorous with the gender of the characters reversed, four of the jokes in Study 3 were found to be funnier than in the other version. The preferred version was invariably the one in which the butt was of the opposite sex. This was particularly true for the females, who were more likely than males to respond differentially to the change in target gender.

Given that females in our study in fact found jokes with the male butt funnier, our results do not replicate that of Cantor (1976) who had found that both sexes preferred jokes with a female butt.

### Discussion

Even though the jokes selected in Study 3 were those that most male and female subjects in Study 2 had considered to be equally humorous

regardless of the gender, we see that many of these jokes were nevertheless differentially rated depending on the particular version.

Moreover, whereas Cantor had reported that all subjects – male and female – found jokes in which females were disparaged to be the funniest, our results do not bear this out. Rather, we found that humor preference reflects in-group/outgroup identifications, reflected by gender – i.e. males preferred versions with the female as the butt whereas females preferred versions with the male as the butt.

Since the jokes used in this study were not matched by joke type, it is not possible to comment on how joke preference might have interacted with joke type. In further work, this variable together with target gender needs to be examined in a factorial design.



## General Discussion

The present study sought to redress some of the limitations of previous studies examining sex differences in beliefs about humor and in ratings of humor by a) using a large sample of males and females; b) devising a humor survey specifically designed to probe gender differences for different types of humor; c) using a broad range of humor types for actual jokes used; d) examining subjects' own classifications of the jokes as being of one or another type; e) examining perception of joke reversibility if the gender of the joke's target was reversed; and f) comparing humor rating across different gendered versions of the same joke.

Taken together, our findings indicate that there is indeed a lot of variation – particularly for hostile and sexual jokes- particularly in how they are classified. Therefore, caution must be exercised before relying on and experimenter-based classification only.

Moreover, our results favor the dispositional theory of humor (Lafave, 1972) – in opposition to Cantor's (1976) findings. Males and females prefer jokes in which members of the opposite sex are disparaged in comparison to jokes in which members of their own sex are disparaged.

Furthermore, variables such as gender of subjects, gender of agent, gender of target need to be examined in a more rigorous and factorial design across a broader range of joke types and scenarios.

While this study found that there are differences in the way each sex perceives humor as a function of joke type and target gender, future studies can expand upon the findings by using a larger and more ethnically heterogeneous subject pool. Also, studies might look into what criteria subjects use to classify jokes; perhaps this will give us some idea as to how people process humor.

Another possible study could look into what criteria subjects use to decide the reversibility of a joke. This may also give some insight into what stimuli/situations cause a subject to perceive the joke as humor. Do males and females differ in the criteria they use to decide reversibility?

Finally, future studies could look into the effect of in-group disparagement of in-group members in greater detail than the present study did. This could yield valuable information on whether agent has a greater effect on humor perception than target or vice versa.

### References

- Brodzinsky, D.M., Barnet, K. & Aiello, J.R. (1981). Sex of subject and gender identity as factors in humor appreciation. *Sex Roles*, 7, 561-573.
- Cantor, Joanne R. (1976) What is funny to whom? The role of gender. *Journal of Communication*, 26, 164-172.
- Chapman, A.J. & Gadfield, N.J. (1976). Is sexual humor sexist? *Journal of Communication*, 26, 141-153.
- Crawford, M. Humor in conversational context: Beyond biases in the study of gender and humor. In R. Unger (ed), *Representations: Social constructions of gender* (pp. 155-166). Amityville, NY: Baywood.
- Groch, A.S. Generality of response to humor and wit in cartoons, jokes, stories, and photographs. *Psychological Reports*, 35, 835-838.
- Hassett, J., & Houlihan, J. Different jokes for different folks. *Psychology Today*, 12, 64-71.
- Henkin, B. & Fish, J. Gender and personality differences in the appreciation of cartoon humor. *The Journal of Psychology*, 20 (2), 1986, pp. 157-175.
- Jackson, D.E., & Jackson, K.A. Gender, object, and humor. *Current Psychology*, 15, 286-290.

- Lafave, L. (1972). Humor judgements as a function of reference groups and identification classes. In J.H. Goldstein & P.E. McGhee (Eds.), *The psychology of humor* (pp. 195-210). New York: Academic Press.
- Losco, J. & Epstein, S. (1975) "Humor preference as a subtle measure of attitudes toward the same and the opposites sex." *Journal of Personality*, 43, 321-334
- Mundorf, N., Bhatia, A., Zillmann, D., Lester, P., & Robertson, S. Gender differences in humor appreciation. *Humor*, 1, 231-243
- O'Connell, W.E. (1960). The adaptive function of wit and humor. *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 61, 263-270
- Quiros, A. & Vaid, J. (1998, Feb.) Why do you think I laugh? Gendered perceptions of the functions of humor. Poster presented at annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston.
- Terry, R.L., and Ertel, S.L. (1974). Exploration of individual differences in preferences for humor. *Psychological Reports*, 34, 1031-1037.
- Vaid, J. & Hull, R. (1998, Nov.) Humor appreciation and the status quo: An empirical study. Poster presented at annual meeting of the Psychonomics Society, Dallas.
- Wilson, D.W. & Molleston, J.L. (1981) Effects of sex and type of humor on humor appreciation. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 45, 90-96

Table 1  
Mean Responses on Humor Practices Survey  
(1=Strongly Disagree; 5=Strongly Agree)  
N= 24M, 49F

Item No.	Item	Male	Female
1	I consider myself to have a good sense of humor.	4.74	4.63
2	Most people regard me as somewhat of a comic.	3.91	3.71
3	I enjoy hearing jokes that make fun of stereotypical male behavior.	3.22	3.96
4	I enjoy hearing jokes that make fun of stereotypical female behavior.	3.87	3.49
5	I enjoy telling jokes that make fun of stereotypical male behavior.	3.22	3.71
6	I enjoy telling jokes that make fun of stereotypical female behavior.	3.87	3.38
7	I do not appreciate jokes that put anyone down.	2.3	3.11
8	I consider myself to be a fairly typical member of my gender.	3.56	3.71
9	Jokes made at a superior's expense are often quite funny.	3.91	3.33
10	Jokes made at a subordinate's expense are often quite funny.	3.39	2.91
11	Jokes made by men at the expense of men are often quite funny.	3.65	3.83
12	Jokes made by women at the expense of men are often quite funny.	3.0	3.63
13	Jokes made by women at the expense of women are often quite funny.	3.83	3.71
14	Jokes made by men at the expense of women are often quite funny.	3.78	2.88
15	I like self-deprecating humor by men.	3.35	3.03
16	I like self-deprecating humor by women.	3.26	2.88
17	I enjoy telling absurd jokes.	3.91	3.53

18	I enjoy hearing absurd jokes.	4.04	3.9
19	I enjoy telling jokes about sex.	3.70	3.0
20	I enjoy hearing jokes about sex.	3.91	3.4
21	I like telling jokes about others' embarrassing habits.	3.52	3.1
22	I like hearing jokes about others' embarrassing habits.	3.70	3.6
23	I like telling jokes about my own embarrassing habits.	3.0	3.2
24	I like hearing jokes about my own embarrassing habits.	3.61	3.8

Table 2  
Summary of Gender Differences in Humor Ratings  
Per Joke Type (Study 2)

N=126M, 160F

Humor ratings: 1 = very humorous

4 = not at all humorous

---

Joke Type	df	F	p	Male	Female
<hr/>					
Hostile	1, 284	10.91	<.001	2.49	2.74
Sexist	1, 284	5.30	<.022	2.68	2.86
Sexual	1, 284	1.75	<.187	2.34	2.44
Absurd	1, 284	1.68	<.196	2.54	2.46

---

### Hostile Jokes

#### Joke 1

Two guys wandered into a bar. One of the men shouted to the barkeeper, "Hiya Mike. Set 'em up for me and my pal here." He then turned condescendingly to his friend and boasted, "This place is a great bar. For every two drinks, the house gives you one. And the pinball machines in the back are free!!!"

"That's not so great," responded the friend. "There's a bar across town that'll match you drink for drink and you can get laid in the back for free."

"Where is this bar?" the first guy asked.

"I don't know," the friend replied smugly, "but your wife goes there all the time."

#### Joke 8

There was a guy who just got out of a bad divorce with his wife. One day he found a Genie's lamp. The Genie came out and said, "Hello master, I will grant you three wishes, but whatever you wish for, your wife gets double." The guy didn't like that part, but he made a wish anyways.

For his first wish, he said, "Genie I want a house in Hawaii." POOF! He got one house and his wife got two. This didn't make him happy, but he made a second wish.

"Genie, I want two billion dollars." POOF! He got two billion and his wife got four billion. By now, the guy wasn't happy at all. The Genie says, "You have one wish left, but I have to remind you, whatever you wish for, your wife gets double."

The guy says, "Yeah, yeah, I know." So the guy thinks really hard and says, "I got it! Genie, beat me half to death!"

#### Joke 10

A man and his ex-girlfriend are at a bar together several days after she broke up with him when she sees a handsome man sitting at the other end of the bar. Excited, she asks her ex to find out if the man is married or single. The ex-boyfriend grumbles but goes to talk to the man.

"You see that woman at the end of the bar? She wants to know if you are single."

"Yeah, I am single. I've been widowed three times."

"Really? What happened to your wives?"

"Well, I strangled my first wife, stabbed my second wife, and shot my third wife."

The ex-boyfriend thanks the stranger for his time and goes back to his ex-girlfriend. "Yes, he's single," he says with a big smile.

#### Joke 14

A doctor and her husband were having an argument which ended with the doctor screaming at her husband that he wasn't so good in bed.



Later the doctor called back to apologize, but the phone rang for quite a while before her husband picked it up. "what took you so long to answer the phone?"

"I was in bed."

"what were you doing in bed so late?"

"I was getting a second opinion."

### **Sexist Jokes**

#### Joke 15

How many men does it take to screw in a lightbulb?  
We don't know. It's never been done before!

#### Joke 9

A dumb woman, a smart woman, and Santa Claus jumped off a bridge at the same time. Who made the biggest splash?  
The dumb woman. The others don't exist!

#### Joke 13

What is the difference between women and batteries?  
Batteries have a positive side!

#### Joke 5

A man walking along the beach finds a lamp, rubs it, and a genie pops out. The Genie tells the man he will grant him three wishes. The man thinks for a moment and then asks for a million dollars. The Genie says, "Oh, that's not hard." Waves his hand and the man is granted a Swiss bank account with a million dollars.

Next the man asks for the secret to a long and happy life. The genie says, "Ok, but that's kind of hard." And tells him the secret.

Then the man asks the Genie to build him a freeway connecting Hawaii to California. The Genie furrows his eyebrows and says, "That is really hard. There is so much to take into consideration and so much planning. Can't you ask for something else?"

The man thinks and asks the Genie to tell him what the key to understanding women is. The Genie's eyes bulge out and he says, "So did you want a two lane or a four lane freeway?"

Table 3

## Humor Ratings Per Sex

	<b>df</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Male Targets	1,126	0.60	0.43	0.27	0.29
Female Targets	1,160	26.08	< .001	2.50	2.85
	<b>df</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Male Targets</b>	<b>Female Targets</b>
Male Subjects	1,126	0.05	0.81	2.52	2.50
Female Subjects	1,160	21.72	< .001	2.57	2.86

Table 4

## Reversibility Ratings by Gender and Target/Butt

Male Target/Male Agent	Males	Females
Joke 1	No	No
Joke 3	No	No
Joke 4	No	No
Joke 6	No	No
Joke 7	No	No
Joke 11	Yes	(Yes, split)

Male Target/Female Agent	Males	Females
Joke 2	Yes	(yes, split)
Joke 12	No	No
Joke 15	No	No
Joke 16	Yes	Yes

Female Target/Male Agent	Males	Females
Joke 5	(yes, split)	Yes
Joke 8	Yes	Yes
Joke 9	No	Yes
Joke 10	Yes	Yes
Joke 13	No	Yes
Joke 14	Yes	Yes

## Table 5

## Group 1

## Joke 1

A guy knocked off early from work and checked in at a local bar. By two o'clock, he was three sheets to the wind, all of them ripping bad. Buying a pint of tequila for the road and slipping it in his back pocket, he staggered outside, tripped over a curb and fell on his ass, busting the bottle. At home, the pain hits. He looks in the mirror after undressing and sees the blood and cuts on his butt. Trying to focus on the mirror, he repairs the damage as best he can, then crashes for the night. The next morning he wakes up with a hangover from hell. He looks up through the pain and fog and sees his wife standing beside the bed. "Well, you really got drunk last night," she said. "Where did you go?"

"I worked late and stopped of at the Lonesome Dove for a couple of beers."

"A couple of beers, hell!" she snorted. "You got so plastered last night you couldn't see straight!"

"What makes you think that?"

"My first clue was when I woke up this morning and found a bunch of band-aids stuck to the bathroom mirror."

## Joke 2

A woman walking along the beach finds a lamp, rubs it, and a genie pops out. The Genie tells the woman it will grant her three wishes. The woman thinks for a moment and then asks for a million dollars. The Genie says, "Oh, that's not hard." Waves its hand and the woman is granted a Swiss bank account with a million dollars.

Next the woman asks for the secret to a long and happy life. The genie says, "Ok, but that's kind of hard." And tells her the secret.

Then the woman asks the Genie to build her a freeway connecting Hawaii to California. The Genie furrows its eyebrows and says, "That is really hard. There is so much to take into consideration and so much planning. Can't you ask for something else?"

The woman thinks and asks the Genie to tell her what the key to understanding men is. The Genie's eyes bulge out and it says, "So did you want a two lane or a four lane freeway?"

## Joke 3

There was a guy who just got out of a bad divorce with his wife. One day he found a Genie's lamp. The Genie came out and said, "Hello master, I will grant you three

wishes, but whatever you wish for, your wife gets double." The guy didn't like that part, but he made a wish anyways.

For his first wish, he said, "Genie I want a house in Hawaii." POOF! He got one house and his wife got two. This didn't make him happy, but he made a second wish.

"Genie, I want two billion dollars." POOF! He got two billion and his wife got four billion. By now, the guy wasn't happy at all. The Genie says, "You have one wish left, but I have to remind you, whatever you wish for, your wife gets double."

The guy says, "Yeah, yeah, I know." So the guy thinks really hard and says, "I got it! Genie, beat me half to death!"

#### Joke 4

A man and his ex-girlfriend are at a bar together several days after she broke up with him when she sees a handsome man sitting at the other end of the bar. Excited, she asks her ex to find out if the man is married or single. The ex-boyfriend grumbles but goes to talk to the man.

"You see that woman at the end of the bar? She wants to know if you are single."

"Yeah, I am single. I've been widowed three times."

"Really? What happened to your wives?"

"Well, I strangled my first wife, stabbed my second wife, and shot my third wife."

The ex-boyfriend thanks the stranger for his time and goes back to his ex-girlfriend. "Yes, he's single," he says with a big smile.

#### Joke 5

A drunken woman was wandering around a parking lot bumping into and rubbing the roofs of cars. The manager comes out of the bar and stops the gal. "What the heck are you doing?" she asks the drunk.

"I am looking for my car and I can't find it."

"So how does feeling the roof help you?" asks the puzzled manager.

"Well," the drunk replies earnestly, "my car has a set of two blue lights and a siren on the roof."

#### Joke 6

A doctor and her husband were having an argument which ended with the doctor screaming at her husband that he wasn't so good in bed.

Later the doctor called back to apologize, but the phone rang for quite a while before her husband picked it up. "what took you so long to answer the phone?"

"I was in bed."

"what were you doing in bed so late?"

"I was getting a second opinion."

**Joke 7**

Man: Doctor, I have a problem. Every time my wife climaxes in bed, she lets out an ear-splitting yell.

Doctor: There is nothing wrong with that

Man: Yes there is. It wakes me up!

**Group 2****Joke 1**

A gal knocked off early from work and checked in at a local bar. By two o'clock, she was three sheets to the wind, all of them ripping bad. Buying a pint of tequila for the road and slipping it in her back pocket, she staggered outside, tripped over a curb and fell on her ass, busting the bottle. At home, the pain hits. She looks in the mirror after undressing and sees the blood and cuts on her butt. Trying to focus on the mirror, she repairs the damage as best she can, then crashes for the night. The next morning she wakes up with a hangover from hell. She looks up through the pain and fog and sees her husband standing beside the bed. "Well, you really got drunk last night," he said. "Where did you go?"

"I worked late and stopped of at the Lonesome Dove for a couple of beers."

"A couple of beers, hell!" he snorted. "You got so plastered last night you couldn't see straight!"

"What makes you think that?"

"My first clue was when I woke up this morning and found a bunch of band-aids stuck to the bathroom mirror."

**Joke 2**

A man walking along the beach finds a lamp, rubs it, and a genie pops out. The Genie tells the man he will grant him three wishes. The man thinks for a moment and then asks for a million dollars. The Genie says, "Oh, that's not hard." Waves his hand and the man is granted a Swiss bank account with a million dollars.

Next the man asks for the secret to a long and happy life. The genie says, "Ok, but that's kind of hard." And tells him the secret.

Then the man asks the Genie to build him a freeway connecting Hawaii to California. The Genie furrows his eyebrows and says, "That is really hard. There is so much to take into consideration and so much planning. Can't you ask for something else?"

The man thinks and asks the Genie to tell him what the key to understanding women is. The Genie's eyes bulge out and he says, "So did you want a two lane or a four lane freeway?"



**Joke 3**

There was a gal who just got out of a bad divorce with her husband. One day she found a Genie's lamp. The Genie came out and said, "Hello master, I will grant you three wishes, but whatever you wish for, your husband gets double." The gal didn't like that part, but she made a wish anyways.

For her first wish, she said, "Genie I want a house in Hawaii." POOF! She got one house and her husband got two. This didn't make her happy, but she made a second wish.

"Genie, I want two billion dollars." POOF! She got two billion and her husband got four billion. By now, the gal wasn't happy at all. The Genie says, "You have one wish left, but I have to remind you, whatever you wish for, your husband gets double."

The gal says, "Yeah, yeah, I know." So the gal thinks really hard and says, "I got it! Genie, beat me half to death!"

**Joke 4**

A woman and her ex-boyfriend are at a bar together several days after he broke up with her when he sees a beautiful woman sitting at the other end of the bar. Excited, he asks his ex to find out if the woman is married or single. The ex-girlfriend grumbles but goes to talk to the woman.

"You see that man at the end of the bar? He wants to know if you are single."

"Yeah, I am single. I've been widowed three times."

"Really? What happened to your husbands?"

"Well, I strangled my first husband, stabbed my second husband, and shot my third husband."

The ex-girlfriend thanks the stranger for her time and goes back to her ex-boyfriend. "Yes, she's single," she says with a big smile.

**Joke 5**

A drunken man was wandering around a parking lot bumping into and rubbing the roofs of cars. The manager comes out of the bar and stops the guy. "what the heck are you doing?" he asks the drunk.

"I am looking for my car and I can't find it."

"So how does feeling the roof help you?" asks the puzzled manager.

"Well," the drunk replies earnestly, "my car has a set of two blue lights and a siren on the roof."

**Joke 6**

A doctor and his wife were having an argument which ended with the doctor screaming at his wife that she wasn't so good in bed.

Later the doctor called back to apologize, but the phone rang for quite a while before his wife picked it up. "What took you so long to answer the phone?"

"I was in bed."

"What were you doing in bed so late?"

"I was getting a second opinion."

### **Joke 7**

Woman: Doctor, I have a problem. Every time my husband climaxes in bed, he lets out an ear-splitting yell.

Doctor: There is nothing wrong with that

Woman: Yes there is. It wakes me up!

7.

## **Group 3**

### **Joke 1**

A guy knocked off early from work and checked in at a local bar. By two o'clock, he was three sheets to the wind, all of them ripping bad. Buying a pint of tequila for the road and slipping it in his back pocket, he staggered outside, tripped over a curb and fell on his ass, busting the bottle. At home, the pain hits. He looks in the mirror after undressing and sees the blood and cuts on his butt. Trying to focus on the mirror, he repairs the damage as best he can, then crashes for the night. The next morning he wakes up with a hangover from hell. He looks up through the pain and fog and sees his roommate standing beside the bed. "Well, you really got drunk last night," he said. "Where did you go?"

"I worked late and stopped of at the Lonesome Dove for a couple of beers."

"A couple of beers, hell!" he snorted. "You got so plastered last night you couldn't see straight!"

"What makes you think that?"

"My first clue was when I woke up this morning and found a bunch of band-aids stuck to the bathroom mirror."

### **Joke 2**

A woman walking along the beach finds a lamp, rubs it, and a genie pops out. The Genie tells the woman she will grant her three wishes. The woman thinks for a moment and then asks for a million dollars. The Genie says, "Oh, that's not hard." Waves her hand and the woman is granted a Swiss bank account with a million dollars.

Next the woman asks for the secret to a long and happy life. The genie says, "Ok, but that's kind of hard." And tells her the secret.

Then the woman asks the Genie to build her a freeway connecting Hawaii to California. The Genie furrows her eyebrows and says, "That is really hard. There is so much to take into consideration and so much planning. Can't you ask for something else?"

The woman thinks and asks the Genie to tell her what the key to understanding men is. The Genie's eyes bulge out and she says, "So did you want a two lane or a four lane freeway?"

### Joke 3

There was a guy who just lost his wife to his brother. One day he found a Genie's lamp. The Genie came out and said, "Hello master, I will grant you three wishes, but whatever you wish for, your brother gets double." The guy didn't like that part, but he made a wish anyways.

For his first wish, he said, "Genie I want a house in Hawaii." POOF! He got one house and his brother got two. This didn't make him happy, but he made a second wish.

"Genie, I want two billion dollars." POOF! He got two billion and his brother got four billion. By now, the guy wasn't happy at all. The Genie says, "You have one wish left, but I have to remind you, whatever you wish for, your brother gets double."

The guy says, "Yeah, yeah, I know." So the guy thinks really hard and says, "I got it! Genie, beat me half to death!"

### Joke 4

A man and his buddy are at a bar together several days after he won a promotion over him when the buddy sees a sexy girl sitting at the other end of the bar. Excited, he asks the man to find out if the girl is married or single. The man grumbles but goes to talk to the girl.

"You see that man at the end of the bar? He wants to know if you are single."

"Yeah, I am single. I've been widowed three times."

"Really? What happened to your husbands?"

"Well, I strangled my first husband, stabbed my second husband, and shot my third husband."

The man thanks the *stranger for her time* and goes back to his buddy. "Yes, she's single," he says with a big smile.

### Joke 5

A drunken woman was wandering around a parking lot bumping into and rubbing the roofs of cars. The manager comes out of the bar and stops the gal. "What the heck are you doing?" he asks the drunk.

"I am looking for my car and I can't find it."

"So how does feeling the roof help you?" asks the puzzled manager.

"Well," the drunk replies earnestly, "my car has a set of two blue lights and a siren on the roof."

### Joke 6

A doctor and her husband were having an argument which ended with the doctor screaming at her husband that he wasn't so good in bed.

Later the doctor called back to apologize, but the phone rang for quite a while before her husband picked it up. "what took you so long to answer the phone?"

"I was in bed."

"what were you doing in bed so late?"

"I was getting a second opinion."

#### **Joke 7**

Man: Doctor, I have a problem. Every time my wife climaxes in bed, she lets out an ear-splitting yell.

Doctor: There is nothing wrong with that

Man: Yes there is. It wakes me up!

### Group 4

#### **Joke 1**

A gal knocked off early from work and checked in at a local bar. By two o'clock, she was three sheets to the wind, all of them ripping bad. Buying a pint of tequila for the road and slipping it in her back pocket, she staggered outside, tripped over a curb and fell on her ass, busting the bottle. At home, the pain hits. She looks in the mirror after undressing and sees the blood and cuts on her butt. Trying to focus on the mirror, she repairs the damage as best she can, then crashes for the night. The next morning she wakes up with a hangover from hell. She looks up through the pain and fog and sees her roommate standing beside the bed. "Well, you really got drunk last night," she said. "Where did you go?"

"I worked late and stopped of at the Lonesome Dove for a couple of beers."

"A couple of beers, hell!" she snorted. "You got so plastered last night you couldn't see straight!"

"What makes you think that?"

"My first clue was when I woke up this morning and found a bunch of band-aids stuck to the bathroom mirror."

#### **Joke 2**

A man walking along the beach finds a lamp, rubs it, and a genie pops out. The Genie tells the man she will grant him three wishes. The man thinks for a moment and then asks for a million dollars. The Genie says, "Oh, that's not hard." Waves her hand and the man is granted a Swiss bank account with a million dollars.

Next the man asks for the secret to a long and happy life. The genie says, "Ok, but that's kind of hard." And tells him the secret.

Then the man asks the Genie to build him a freeway connecting Hawaii to California. The Genie furrows her eyebrows and says, "That is really hard. There is so much to take into consideration and so much planning. Can't you ask for something else?"

The man thinks and asks the Genie to tell him what the key to understanding women is. The Genie's eyes bulge out and she says, "So did you want a two lane or a four lane freeway?"

### Joke 3

There was a gal who just lost her husband to her sister. One day she found a Genie's lamp. The Genie came out and said, "Hello master, I will grant you three wishes, but whatever you wish for, your sister gets double." The gal didn't like that part, but she made a wish anyways.

For her first wish, she said, "Genie I want a house in Hawaii." POOF! She got one house and her sister got two. This didn't make her happy, but she made a second wish.

"Genie, I want two billion dollars." POOF! She got two billion and her sister got four billion. By now, the gal wasn't happy at all. The Genie says, "You have one wish left, but I have to remind you, whatever you wish for, your sister gets double."

The gal says, "Yeah, yeah, I know." So the gal thinks really hard and says, "I got it! Genie, beat me half to death!"

### Joke 4

A woman and her girlfriend are at a bar together several days after the girlfriend won a promotion over her when the girlfriend sees a handsome man sitting at the other end of the bar. Excited, she asks the woman to find out if the man is married or single. The woman grumbles but goes to talk to the man.

"You see that woman at the end of the bar? She wants to know if you are single."

"Yeah, I am single. I've been widowed three times."

"Really? What happened to your wives?"

"Well, I strangled my first wife, stabbed my second wife, and shot my third wife."

The woman thanks the stranger for his time and goes back to her girlfriend. "Yes, he's single," she says with a big smile.

### Joke 5

A drunken man was wandering around a parking lot bumping into and rubbing the roofs of cars. The manager comes out of the bar and stops the guy. "what the heck are you doing?" she asks the drunk.

"I am looking for my car and I can't find it."

"So how does feeling the roof help you?" asks the puzzled manager.

"Well," the drunk replies earnestly, "my car has a set of two blue lights and a siren on the roof."

**Joke 6**

A doctor and his wife were having an argument which ended with the doctor screaming at his wife that she wasn't so good in bed.

Later the doctor called back to apologize, but the phone rang for quite a while before his wife picked it up. "What took you so long to answer the phone?"

"I was in bed."

"What were you doing in bed so late?"

"I was getting a second opinion."

**Joke 7**

Woman: Doctor, I have a problem. Every time my husband climaxes in bed, he lets out an ear-splitting yell.

Doctor: There is nothing wrong with that

Woman: Yes there is. It wakes me up!

## List of Appendices

A. Sample Humor Practices Survey administered in Study 1

B. Sample Humor Rating Instrument administered in Study 3

Your Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity : \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS: Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements, using the following scale:

- 1 = Strongly Disagree  
2 = Disagree  
3 = Undecided  
4 = Agree  
5 = Strongly Agree

ITEM	RATING
1. I consider myself to have a good sense of humor.	_____
2. Jokes made at a superior's expense are often quite funny.	_____
3. Jokes made by men at the expense of women are often quite funny.	_____
4. I consider myself to be a fairly typical member of my gender.	_____
5. I like telling jokes about my own embarrassing habits.	_____
6. I enjoy telling jokes that make fun of stereotypical male behavior.	_____
7. I do not appreciate jokes that put anyone down.	_____
8. Jokes made by women at the expense of men are often quite funny.	_____
9. I enjoy hearing jokes that make fun of stereotypical male behavior.	_____
10. Jokes made at a subordinate's expense are often quite funny.	_____
11. I like hearing jokes about my own embarrassing habits.	_____
12. Jokes made by women at the expense of women are often quite funny.	_____
13. I enjoy telling jokes that make fun of stereotypical female behavior.	_____
14. I like self-deprecating humor by men.	_____
15. Jokes made by men at the expense of men are often quite funny.	_____
16. I like self-deprecating humor by women.	_____
17. I enjoy telling absurd jokes.	_____
18. I like telling jokes about others' embarrassing habits.	_____
19. I enjoy hearing absurd jokes.	_____
20. I enjoy telling jokes about sex.	_____
21. Most people regard me as somewhat of a comic.	_____
22. I enjoy hearing jokes that make fun of stereotypical female behavior.	_____
23. I enjoy hearing jokes about sex.	_____
24. I like hearing jokes about others' embarrassing habits.	_____



Directions: Using the guide below, rate each of the jokes.

Guide: Question 1: How humorous is this joke?

- a. Very humorous      b. Humorous      c. Fairly humorous      d. Not humorous at all

Question 2: Why is this joke humorous?

Question 3: Using the letters, please rank the following categories based on how well each one describes the joke (1= best descriptive fit)

- a. sexual      b. sexist      c. hostile      d. absurd/nonsense

---

Joke 1 Q1. \_\_\_\_ Q2. \_\_\_\_ Q3. (1) \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_

Joke 2 Q1. \_\_\_\_ Q2. \_\_\_\_ Q3. (1) \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_

Joke 3 Q1. \_\_\_\_ Q2. \_\_\_\_ Q3. (1) \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_

Joke 4 Q1. \_\_\_\_ Q2. \_\_\_\_ Q3. (1) \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_

Joke 5 Q1. \_\_\_\_ Q2. \_\_\_\_ Q3. (1) \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_

Joke 6 Q1. \_\_\_\_ Q2. \_\_\_\_ Q3. (1) \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_

Joke 7 Q1. \_\_\_\_ Q2. \_\_\_\_ Q3. (1) \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_